

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of  
Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

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U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Examiner: A. Dunwoody

Title: TUBE JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the attached form and document(s) indicate information of which the applicant(s) has/have recently become aware which may be relevant to the above-identified application.

The information is in the form of references that have been cited in a corresponding Office Action from the Chinese Patent Office, dated December 24, 2004, as a foreign counterpart application to the present application. A copy of the Chinese Office Action, which cites the following two references, is enclosed.

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-182751  
published on July 6, 1999
- (2) Chinese Patent Application Publication No. CN 1266964,  
published on September 20, 2000

A copy of citation (1) was previously submitted to the USPTO in an earlier information disclosure statement. Accordingly, only citation (2) is attached, together with its corresponding U.S. Patent No. 6,283,443 to serve as an English language translation thereof.

The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of this information by initialing and returning a copy of the Information Disclosure Citation form (PTO-1449) attached herewith.

**Statement Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)**

By signing below, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

This information is being submitted after receipt of a final Office Action, but before termination of proceedings in the present application. Accordingly, in view of the 37 CFR § 1.97(e) statement above, consideration of this information is proper and required with payment of the IDS fee (\$180.00). This fee may be charged to the Attorney's Deposit Account No. 07-2519. Should any other fees be considered due in connection with this or any accompanying communication, such fees may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 07-2519.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (08-02)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0851-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/706,945
Filing Date	11-14-2003
First Named Inventor	Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.
Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	A. Dunwoody
Attorney Docket Number	CS-31-031114

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>o</sup>
		Country Code* Number* Kind Code* (if known)				
		CN 1266964	09-20-2000			✓

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.15 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.